

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 73

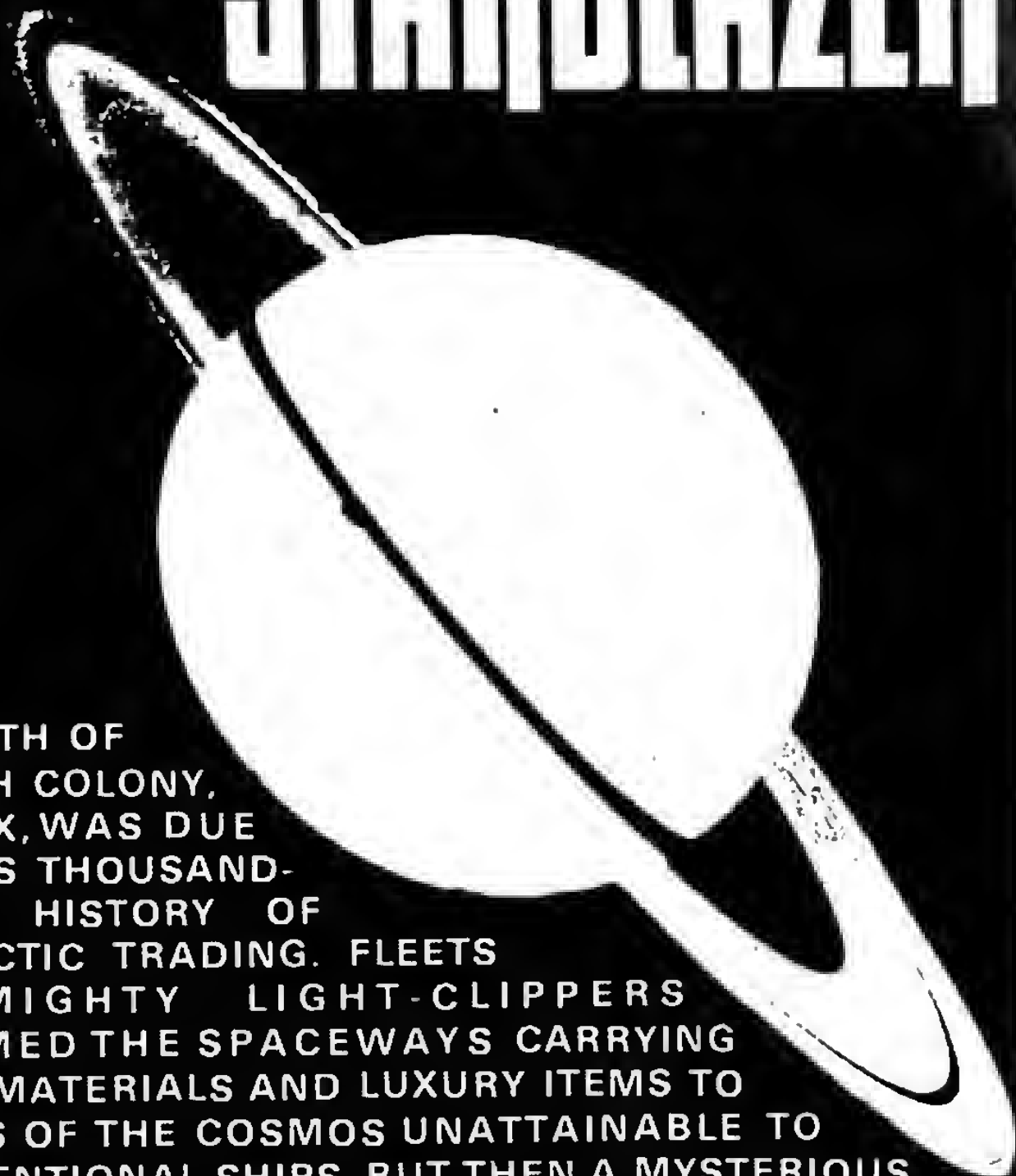
16p



IT WAS A SAFE
ROUTE UNTIL AN
UNSEEN ENEMY STRUCK
THE LIGHT CLIPPERS...

FEAR ON THE SPACEWAYS

STARBLAZER



THE WEALTH OF EARTH COLONY, TRYAX, WAS DUE TO ITS THOUSAND-YEAR HISTORY OF GALACTIC TRADING. FLEETS OF MIGHTY LIGHT-CLIPPERS ROAMED THE SPACEWAYS CARRYING RAW MATERIALS AND LUXURY ITEMS TO PARTS OF THE COSMOS UNATTAINABLE TO CONVENTIONAL SHIPS. BUT THEN A MYSTERIOUS FORCE BEGAN TO ATTACK THE LIGHT-CLIPPERS AND THREATEN THE VERY SAFETY OF THE WHOLE EARTH EMPIRE. THERE WAS UNIVERSAL PANIC, AND...

FEAR ON THE SPACEWAYS

THE CLIPPER "DARING", PRIDE OF THE TRYAXIAN FLEET, MOVED NEARER TO A LASER BEAM RELAY STATION.

STAND BY TO TRIM
LIGHT SAILS!

AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN.



IN LASER STATION SIX, ON THE SURFACE OF TRYAX—

TEN SECONDS TO FULL
ROTATION, ADMIRAL CHASE.

READY FOR ACTIVATION...



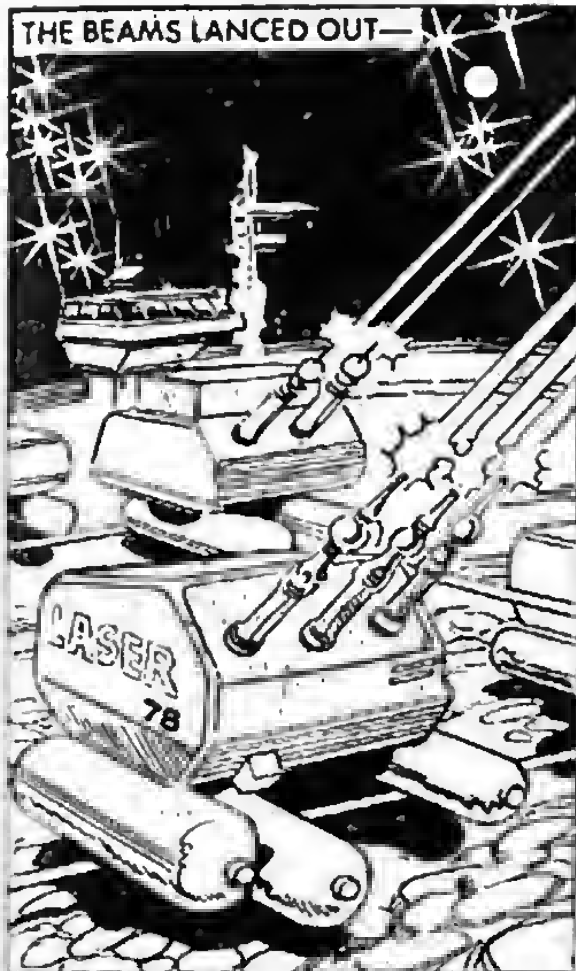
THE HUGE BANKS OF LASERS WERE DOTTED ALL OVER TRYAX, BEAMING A CONTINUOUS STREAM OF LASER ENERGY. THESE LASERPATHS FED ENERGY TO THE LIGHT SAILS OF TRYAX CRAFT.

PLANETARY ROTATION CYCLE COMPLETED,
SIR, WE'RE ON-BEAM AGAIN.

VERY GOOD!
ACTIVATION BEGINS...



THE BEAMS LANCED OUT—



HIGH ABOVE TRYAX, THE CLIPPER "DARING" RECEIVED THE ENERGY RIGHT ON TIME.

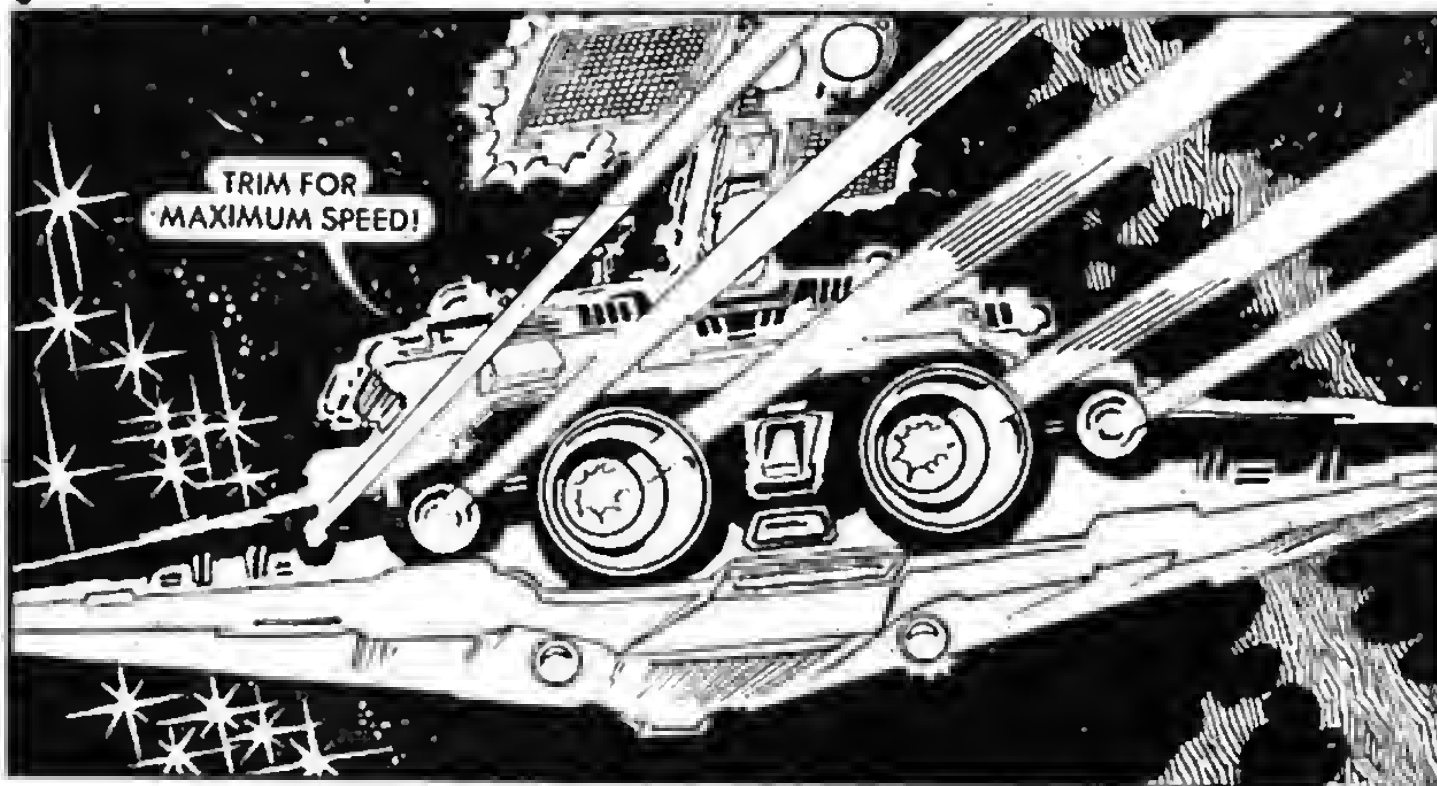


LASER STATION SIX ACTIVATED ON SCHEDULE, SIR.

RUN ROUTINE CHECK ON THE AUXILIARY POWER, WHEN WE LEAVE THIS TRADE-LANE WE'RE ON THAT ONLY...



CHECKS ALREADY COMPLETED AND SATISFACTORY, SIR.



THE CAPTAIN OF THE "DARING" WAS ANXIOUS TO KEEP HIS SHIP ON SCHEDULE, BUT AS IT PASSED THE PLANET ROANAK ...





THE GIANT SCANNER FLICKERED INTO LIFE.

THERE THEY ARE—THE ROANAKS. AN AMAZING
EXAMPLE OF PRIMITIVE MANKIND.

YES, AND A CATEGORY "A" LISTED PLANET—
THEY MUST BE LEFT ALONE AND ALLOWED TO
EVOLVE AT THEIR OWN PACE.

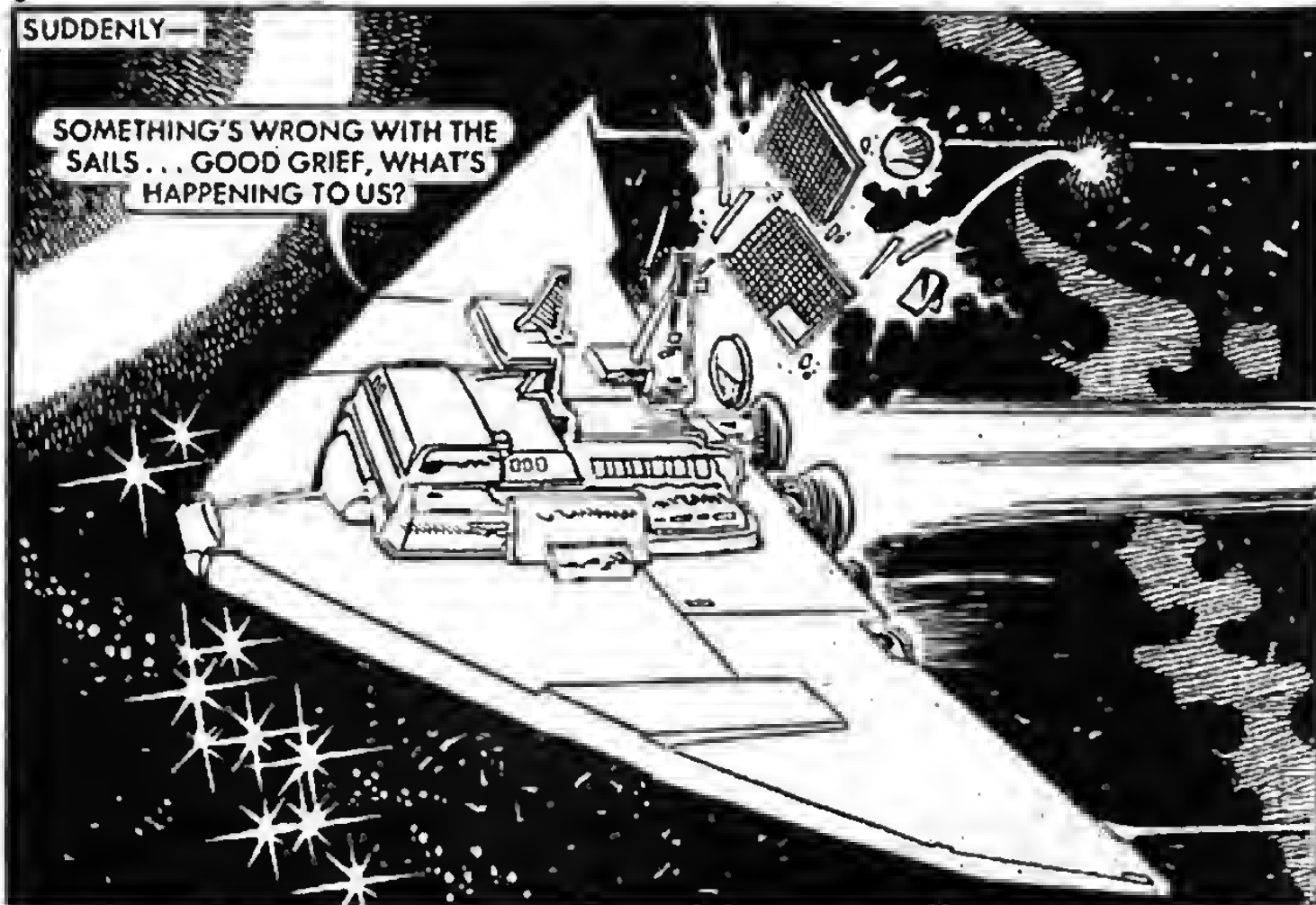


ANYONE FOUND TAMPERING WITH THEIR
CIVILISATION WILL BE SEVERELY DEALT
WITH.

I WAS JUST LOOKING,
NUMBER ONE.

SUDDENLY—

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE
SAILS... GOOD GRIEF, WHAT'S
HAPPENING TO US?



AT LASER STATION SIX—

ADMIRAL, THE "DARING'S" GONE
OUT OF CONTROL... SOMETHING'S
WRONG.





DARING CALLING... DARING
CALLING... TERRIBLE... THE FEAR
... SHIP SHAKING... A



THE SHIP'S VANISHED FROM THE
SCREEN—CRASHED ONTO THE
SURFACE OF ROANAK.

BUT HOW? ... THERE WAS NO EXPLOSION,
NO WEAPON SHOWED ON THE SCREEN...



WE CAN'T GO TO ROANAK TO
INVESTIGATE THE CRASH
OURSELVES—IT'S STRICTLY
OFF LIMITS. WE'LL HAVE TO CALL
IN A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR...

AT THAT MOMENT, ELSEWHERE ON TRYAX, SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR LEO CHASE WAS IN TROUBLE . . .

TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT, BUT A STUN BOMB WILL SORT HIM OUT.





A CONTROLLED ENERGY RAY SLAMMED THE GUNMAN AGAINST A WALL.



WHAT THE...? TOO MANY OF THEM TO TACKLE HEAD-ON. SOME TRICKERY'S CALLED FOR—LIKE THIS MIDNIGHT MINE...



THE MIDNIGHT MINE RELEASED A CLOUD OF BLACK LIGHT.



THEY'RE BLINDED, BUT THESE SPECIAL GLASSES ENABLE ME TO SLIP BY THEM...



HOLD IT LEO... THAT'LL BE ENOUGH!



ONE DAY WE WILL, LEO. BUT FOR NOW WE'VE GOT OTHER PROBLEMS—YOU'RE TO REPORT TO LASER STATION SIX.



THE ADMIRAL QUICKLY EXPLAINED.

THEN IT LOOKS LIKE MY NEXT STOP IS TO INVESTIGATE THE WRECK OF THE "DARING" ON ROANAK. AND SPEAKING OF TRIPS, HOW WAS YOUR VACATION?

ER, MARVELLOUS LEO...

YOU DON'T SOUND VERY ENTHUSIASTIC!

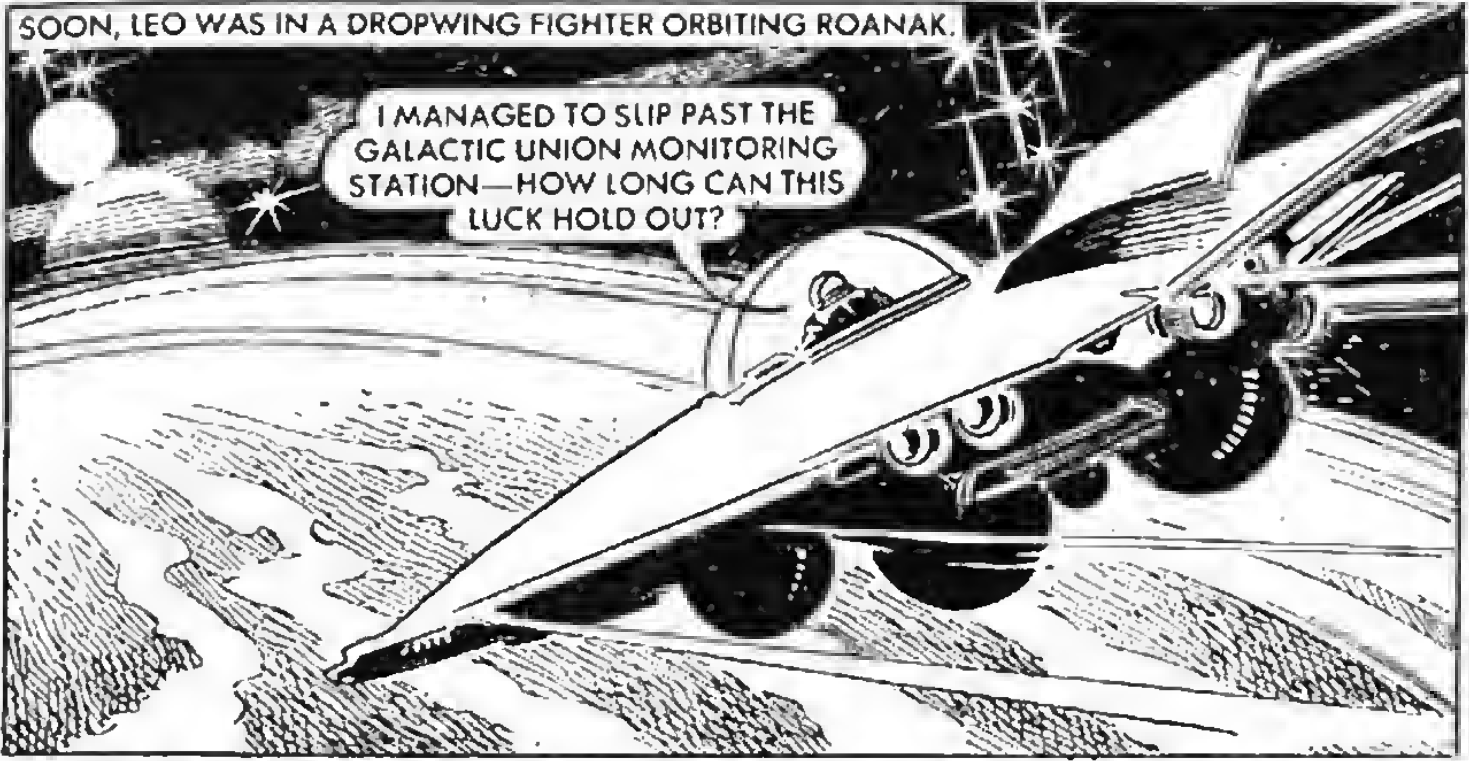
YOU KNOW HOW IT IS—VACATION LEAVES YOU A BIT UNSETTLED.

THAT'S TRUE... STILL, I CAN'T STAY HERE CHATTING—I'VE GOT TO GET TO ROANAK.




24
SOON, LEO WAS IN A DROPWING FIGHTER ORBITING ROANAK.

I MANAGED TO SLIP PAST THE
GALACTIC UNION MONITORING
STATION—HOW LONG CAN THIS
LUCK HOLD OUT?

A black and white comic panel showing a sleek, futuristic dropwing fighter in orbit around a planet. The planet's surface is visible with some terrain details. The fighter has a cockpit with a pilot visible and a large, dark, circular engine or sensor at the rear. The background is a starry space with a bright sun or moon on the left.

LEO FOUND THE "DARING"—

OH, NO! THE "DARING" HAS COME DOWN
RIGHT ON TOP OF A ROANAK PLACE OF
WORSHIP. FOR AN OUTSIDER TO ENTER IT
MEANS DEATH!

A black and white comic panel showing a young man, Leo, in a jungle setting. He is wearing a flight suit and a helmet, looking down at a map or a set of plans he is holding. In the background, there are large, ancient stone structures, some of which appear to be ruins or temples. The scene is filled with tropical vegetation and trees. The lighting suggests it might be dusk or dawn, with a bright light source on the left.

THERE'S ONE CHANCE OF
GETTING CLOSE—THE
REFRACTOR ROBE.



THE SPECIALLY TREATED CAPE
ABSORBED LIGHT INSTEAD OF
REFLECTING IT, MAKING THE
WEARER INVISIBLE.

LEO BOARDED THE "DARING" UNDETECTED.



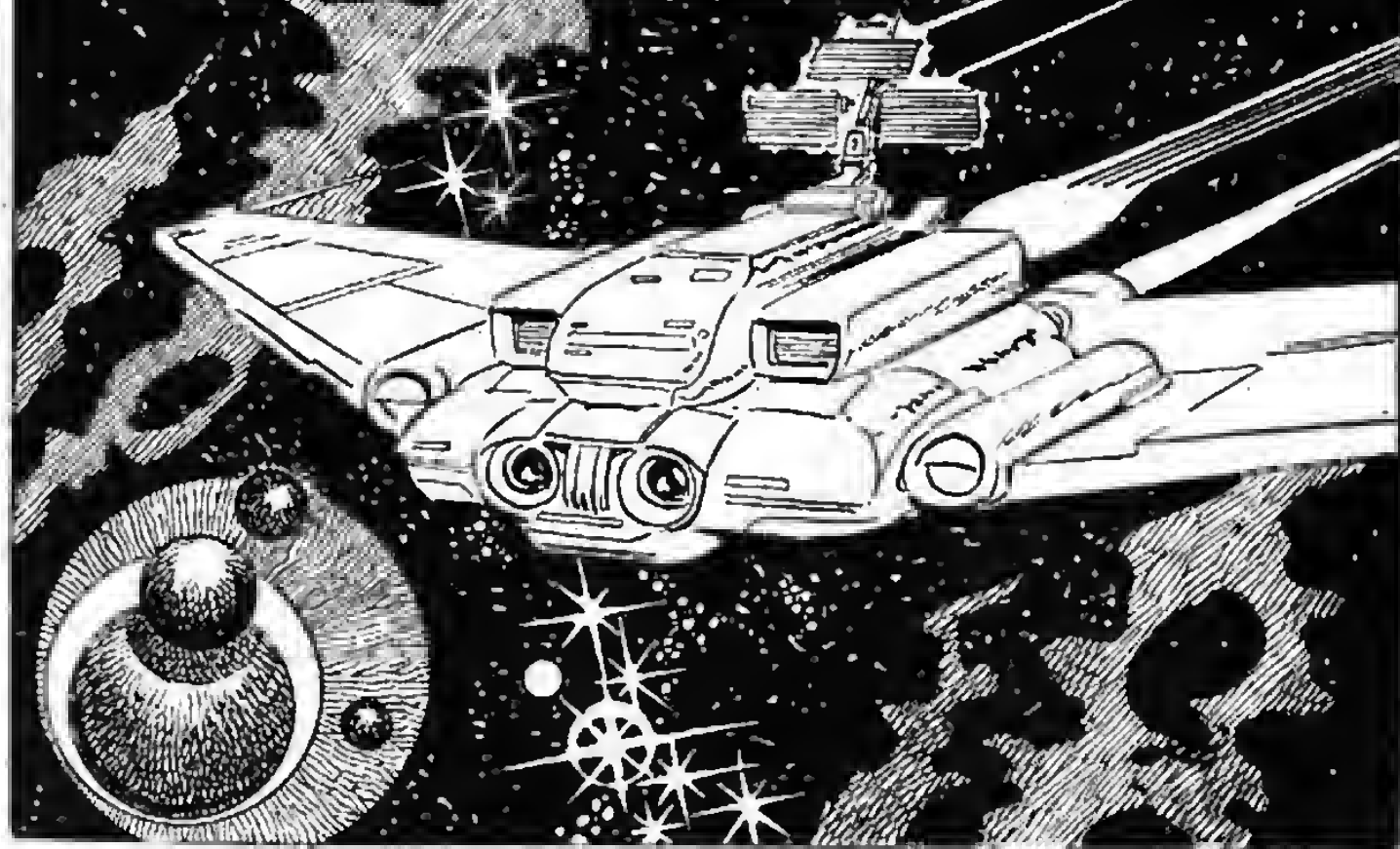
GREAT SCOT, IT LOOKS LIKE THE
ENTIRE CREW DIED OF FRIGHT.
SOMETHING OUT THERE IN SPACE
SCARED THEM ALL TO DEATH. BUT
WHAT COULD DO THAT?

LEO RETURNED TO TRYAX AND RELATED HIS FINDINGS—

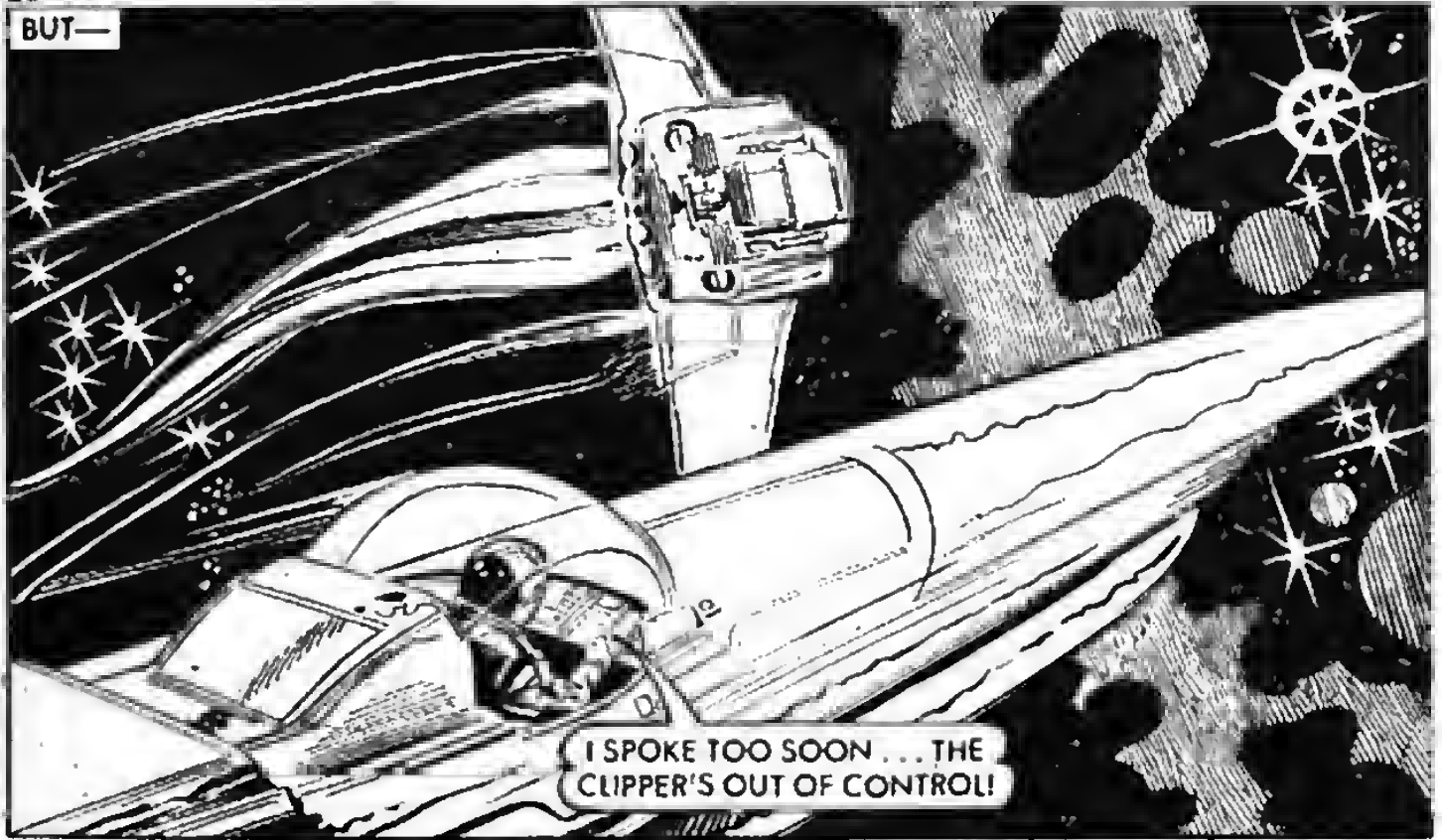
I WANT A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL VESSELS DUE
TO LEAVE TRYAX. WHEN THE NEXT CLIPPER SAILS,
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND IT.

AND SO—

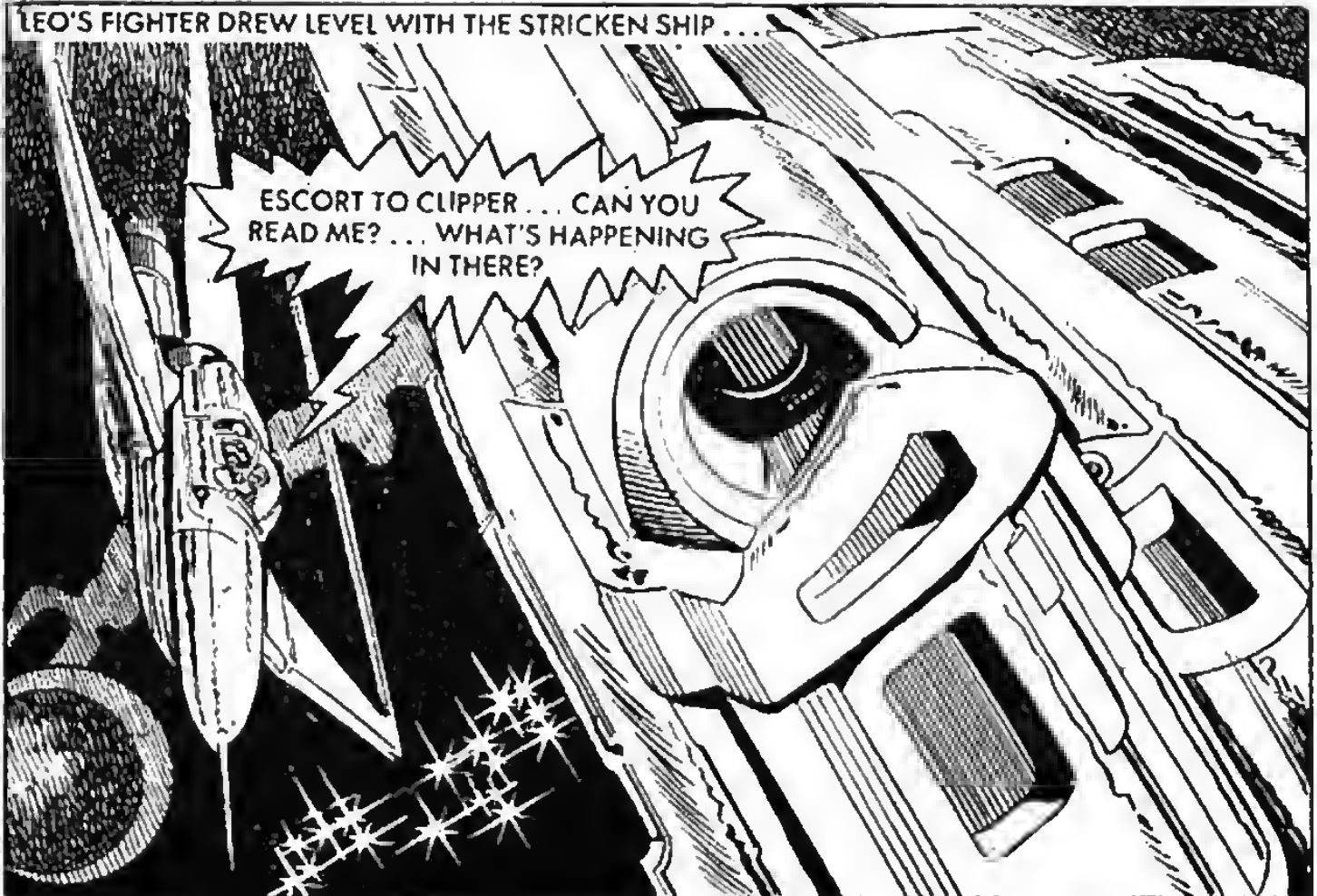
TWO DAYS OUT FROM TRYAX AND SO FAR
NOTHING... I'M STARTING TO DIE OF BOREDOM!



BUT—



LEO'S FIGHTER DREW LEVEL WITH THE STRICKEN SHIP . . .





BUT AS HE ENTERED ONE OF THE CLIPPER'S AIR-LOCKS.



THEN A MORE DREADFUL EMOTION OVERTOOK HIM —

I'M FRIGHTENED ... SCARED
STIFF ... BUT WHAT OF? THERE'S
NOTHING HERE ... THIS IS CRAZY!



HE FORCED HIS PROTESTING BODY TO CRAWL TO THE AIR-LOCK HATCH.

THE WHOLE SHIP'S SHAKING!
IT'S ABOUT TO TEAR ITSELF APART!



HE BURST OUT OF THE AIRLOCK—



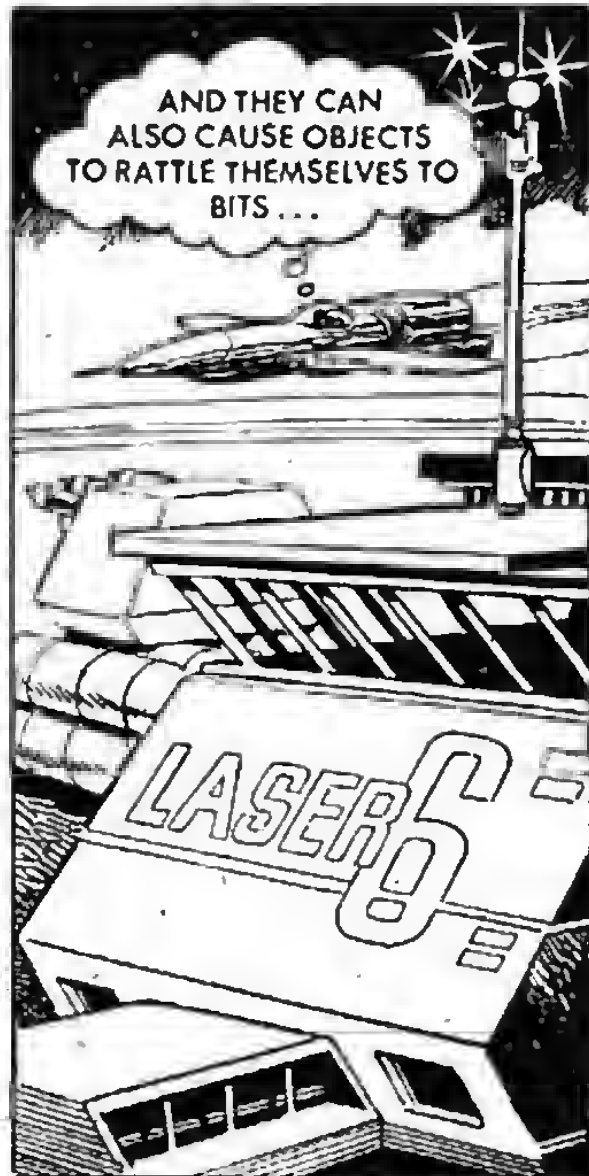
THAT WAS A NARROW ESCAPE.
BUT THE CREW OF THE CLIPPER
WEREN'T SO LUCKY.

AS HE PILOTED HIS FIGHTER BACK TO TRYAX, LEO WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT.

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY MAKE A
LIGHT CLIPPER SHAKE ITSELF TO
PIECES, AND CAUSE ME TO COWER
IN ABJECT TERROR—AT NOTHING?

SOME SORT OF SUB-SONIC BEAM
WOULD DO THE TRICK. IT'S A
SCIENTIFIC FACT THAT ULTRA-
LOW FREQUENCY SOUNDS CREATE
A RESPONSE OF FEAR AND
DISTRESS.

AND THEY CAN
ALSO CAUSE OBJECTS
TO RATTLE THEMSELVES TO
BITS ...

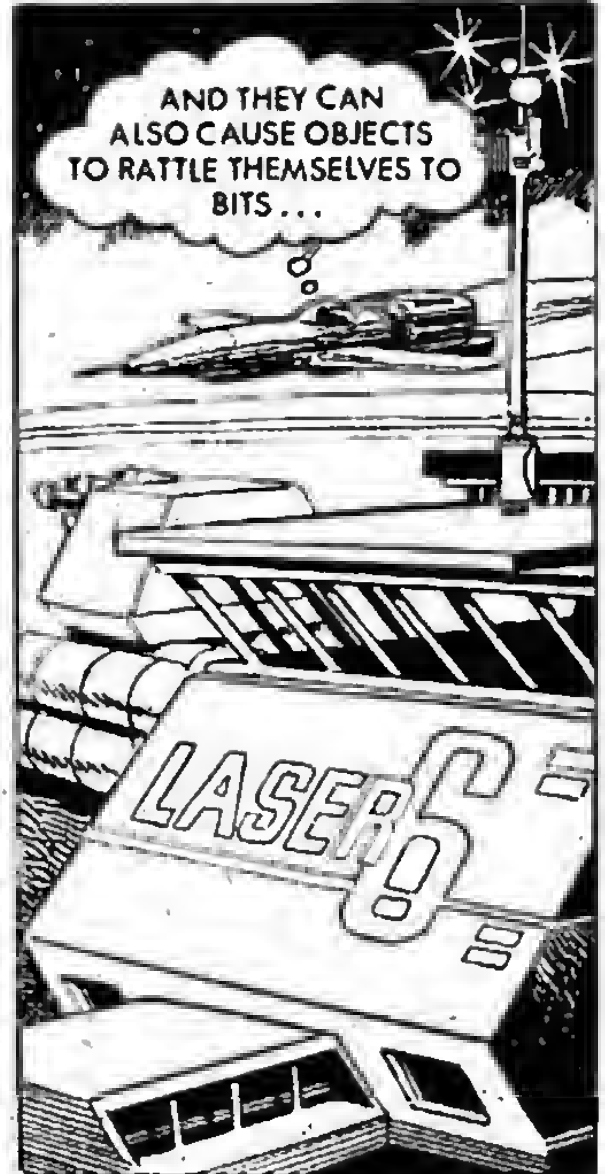


LEO PUT HIS IDEA TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL—

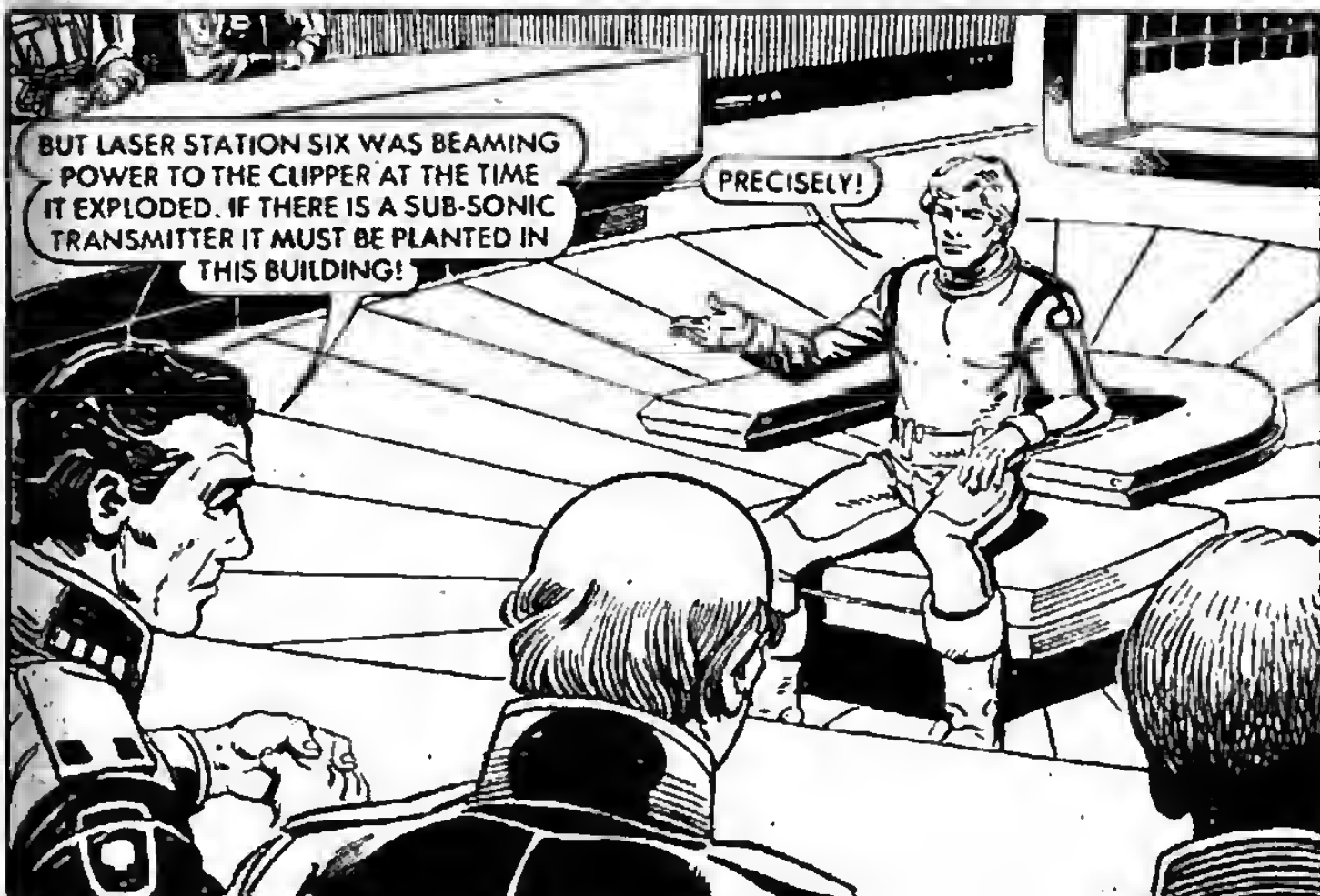


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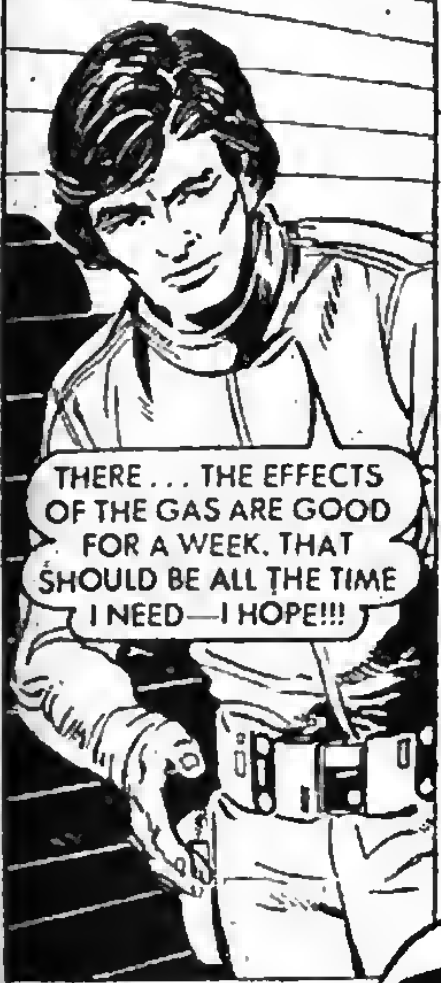








CHAMELEON GAS MADE THE FLESH LIKE PUTTY. LEO WAS ABLE TO RESHAPE HIS FEATURES.



THERE ... THE EFFECTS OF THE GAS ARE GOOD FOR A WEEK. THAT SHOULD BE ALL THE TIME I NEED—I HOPE!!!

LEO'S FIRST CALL WAS AT THE MELKORIAN SCIENCE INSTITUTE.



THIS MAY BE A BIT OF AN OBVIOUS PLACE TO LOOK ... BUT I HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE ...

THE SIDE ENTRANCE WAS LIGHTLY GUARDED.



ONLY ONE GUARD! A TIME SKIP DART WILL DEAL WITH HIM.



THE TIME-SKIP DART INDUCED UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND AMNESIA—THE SENTRY WOULD HAVE NO MEMORY OF LEO'S ATTACK.

SWEET DREAMS, PAL!

INSIDE—

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS DOOR LEADS, BUT IT'S SO HEAVILY LOCKED IT MUST BE IMPORTANT.



AS LEO WORKED





BUT SUDDENLY—

FORWARD FOR FREEDOM!



LEO HAD JUST ASKED THE SAME QUESTION.

THE MELKORIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY.
BUT WHO ARE YOU, STRANGER?

WELL, I...



THE LAST OF THE RESOURCES OF MELKOR ARE
BEING USED TO BUILD UP THE ARMED FORCES
FOR OUR GOVERNMENT'S MAD DREAM OF
GALATIC CONQUEST. IT MUST BE STOPPED.
WILL YOU HELP US?

GIVE ME YOUR GUN...



LEO'S QUICK REACTIONS STOPPED THE GUARDS.



PLANT THE CHARGES,
LET'S GET GOING ...



NO, WAIT ...

GET DOWN!!



AS LEO AND THE REBELS FOUGHT THEIR WAY OUT OF THE INSTITUTE...




AT THE SECRET H.Q. OF THE M.P.A.—

YOU SAY YOU WANT TO JOIN US AND
YOU'VE PROVED YOURSELF IN A FIGHT.
BUT WHO ARE YOU?

I ... ER ... I USED TO WORK
AT THE SCIENCE INSTITUTE, BUT I HAD TO
QUIT.






WORKING ON MY OWN, I DEVELOPED SOME WEAPONS THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO TURN OVER TO THE GOVERNMENT. LIKE YOU, I SEEK THEIR DOWNFALL...

ALL MELKORIAN SHOULD FEEL THAT WAY. BUT WHERE ARE THESE WEAPONS?

LEO OPENED HIS SPECIAL CASE.



HERE! RAZOR BOMBS, PUSHBEAMS, LOTS OF OTHERS. BUT THEY'RE STILL IN THE EXPERIMENTAL STAGE, SO HANDS OFF—OK?

VERY WELL. BUT WE MUST BE ABLE TO USE THEM WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT...

LEO FOUND AN EXCUSE TO SLIP AWAY ON HIS OWN.



WELL I SEEM TO HAVE CONVINCED THEM. BETTER RADIO THE CHIEF...



THAT'S THE SITUATION... THESE MELKORIAN REVOLUTIONARIES SEEM TO HAVE ACCEPTED ME.

BUT DID YOU HAVE TO SHOW THEM OUR SECRET WEAPONS?



YES! IT MADE MY STORY MORE BELIEVABLE, AND GAVE ME SOMETHING TO BARGAIN WITH. BUT CHIEF, I'VE JUST HAD A CRAZY IDEA. I COULD USE SOME HELP UP HERE...

... SO I'M GOING TO PROVOKE A FIGHT— AND TAKE OVER AS LEADER OF THE MELKORIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY!

SO LEO PUT HIS PLAN INTO ACTION—

A COUNCIL OF WAR... WHAT'S
YOUR NEXT INCOMPETENT PLAN?

WHAAAT??



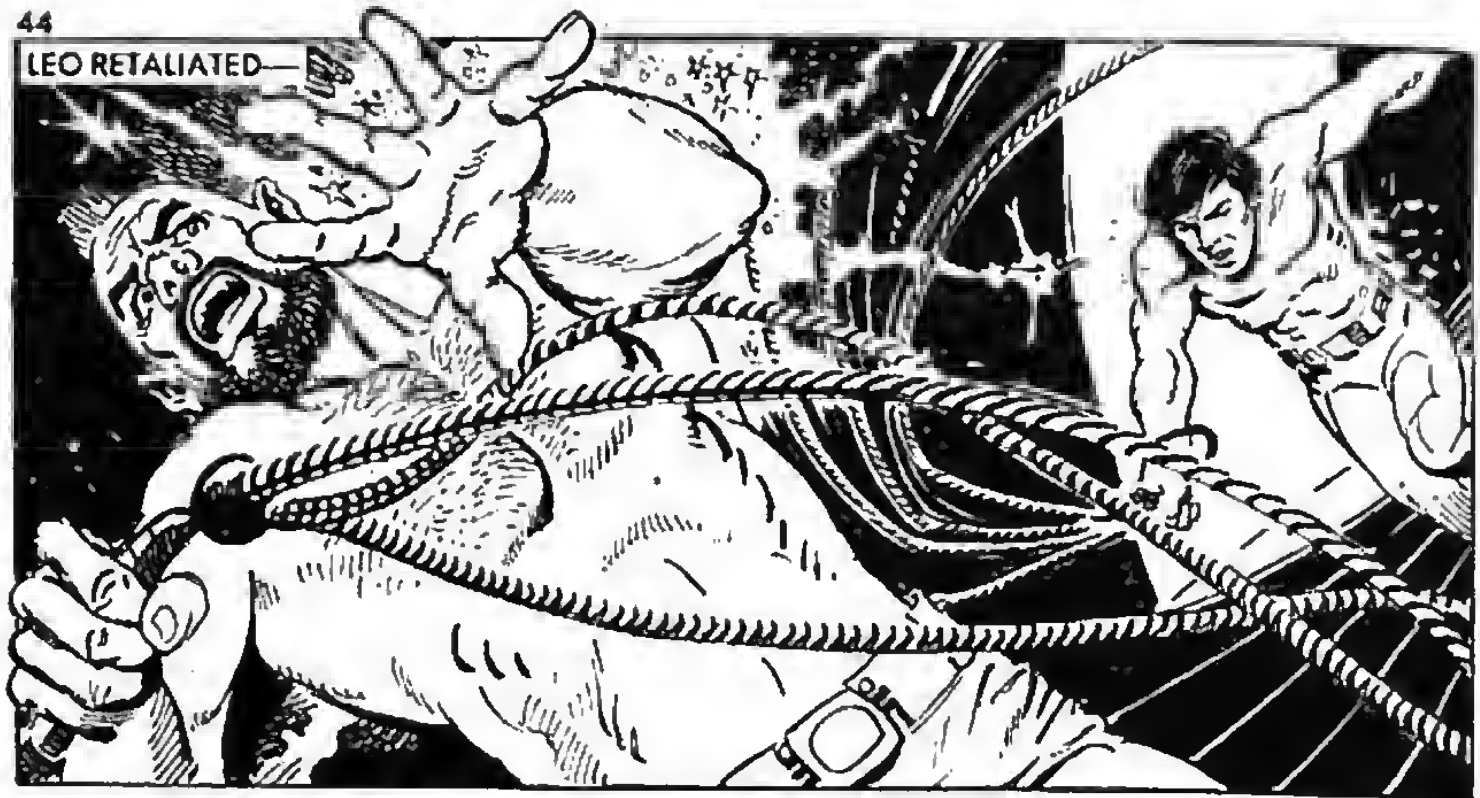
YOU HEARD ME... YOU'RE A FOOL.
YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW TO ORGANISE
OR LEAD PEOPLE.

... AND YOU DO?





LEO RETALIATED—



FOR LONG, TENSE MINUTES THE FIGHT CONTINUED.



FINALLY...



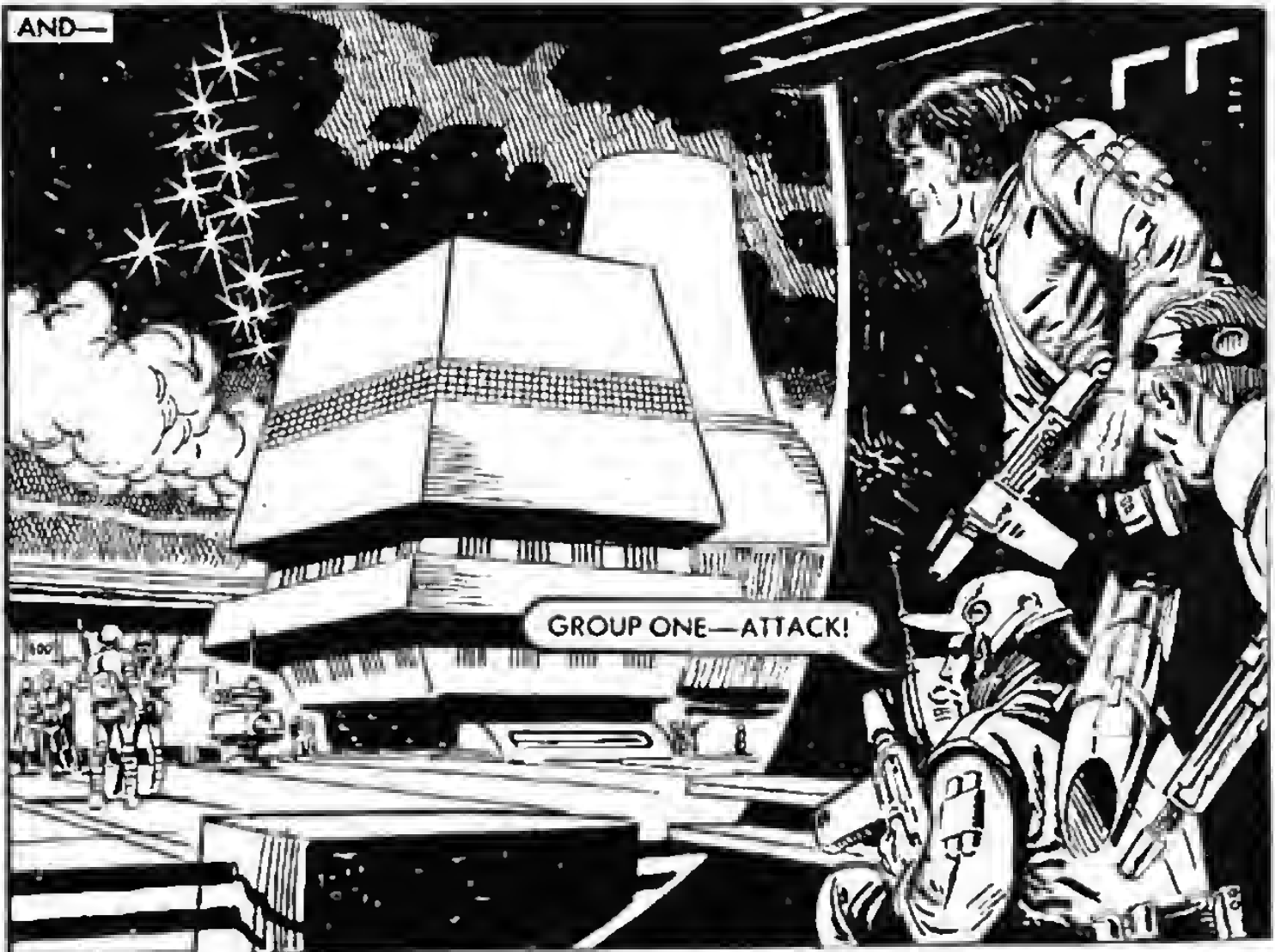
WITH HIS LEADERSHIP ESTABLISHED, LEO WASTED NO TIME IN LAYING HIS PLANS.

WE'VE GOT THE MANPOWER TO REALLY SHAKE THINGS UP. WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS STRIKE AT SEVERAL TARGETS SIMULTANEOUSLY.



AND—

GROUP ONE—ATTACK!



GROUP ONE MOVED IN ON THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING.



ACROSS THE MELKORIAN CAPITAL, OTHER GROUPS ATTACKED OTHER TARGETS.



THE RESULT WAS CONFUSION.

WHAT'S GOING ON, SIR? ...
THE CITY'S IN AN UPROAR!

I DON'T KNOW! DON'T JUST STAND
THERE TALKING—GET OUT AND FIGHT!



UNDER COVER OF THE CHAOS, LEO MADE HIS MOVE...



USING A HEAVY RAY MASS INCREASER, LEO COULD DEMOLISH SOLID WALLS WITH EASE.



THE HEAD OF MELKORIAN SECURITY IS CALLED JELTAR. HE RARELY LEAVES THIS BUILDING.



FINDING THE DOOR OPENED,
LEO ENTERED—

IF I CAN GET TO
HIM, I'M HOME AND DRY ...



YES, JELTAR. IT
WILL BE DONE, SIR!

THAT'S HIS OFFICE!



WHEN THE GUARD HAD DEPARTED—

JELTAR! A STUNCHARGE
WILL HOLD YOU!



A HOLOGRAM DECOY... THEN
THE REAL JELTAR MUST BE...





THE LASER CURTAIN ALLOWED JELTAR TO FIRE AT LEO
... BUT THE SHOT COULD NOT BE RETURNED.





JELTAR WAS SWIFTLY OVERPOWERED AND SEDATED.





FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES, LEO FOUND LIFE VERY DIFFICULT.



USING AN ARRAY OF WEAPONS, LEO MADE THE MAIN ENTRANCE.



THEY'VE BLOCKED THE CORRIDOR.
HAVE TO GO THIS WAY.



LEO PASSED CELLS AND TORTURE ROOMS...



FOR A MOMENT LEO WAS STUNNED AT WHAT HE HAD SEEN IN THE CELL. BUT THEN...

... THAT EXPLAINS A LOT OF THINGS.
THE REFRACTOR ROBE WILL HIDE IT
FOR THE MOMENT, AND THIS
ORBAZOOKA IS MY TICKET OUT...



DAYLIGHT... THANK GOODNESS...

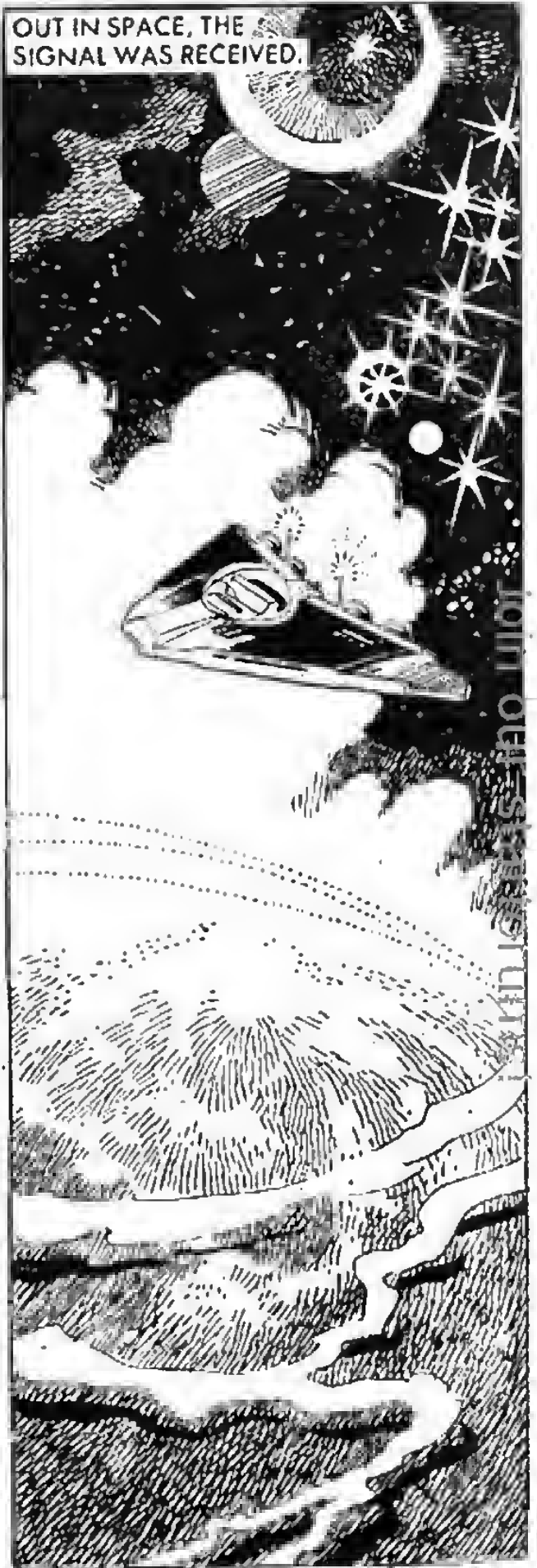


LEO USED THE ORBAZOOKA TO KEEP HIS PURSUERS AT BAY.

THE CHIEF LEFT A DROPWING IN SECRET ORBIT FOR JUST SUCH A SITUATION. NOW'S THE TIME TO SUMMON IT ...



OUT IN SPACE, THE SIGNAL WAS RECEIVED.



HERE SHE COMES... BUT THOSE GUARDS ARE GETTING TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT.



LEO'S PLAN WAS DESPERATE—

WON'T BE NEEDING THIS BAG OF TRICKS ANY LONGER. A MASSED EXPLOSION SHOULD COVER MY GETAWAY.



WITH THE REFRACTOR ROBE LEO SPURTED TO THE DROPWING.



THE MELKORIANS MADE A LAST-MINUTE ATTEMPT TO BLOCK LEO'S ESCAPE...

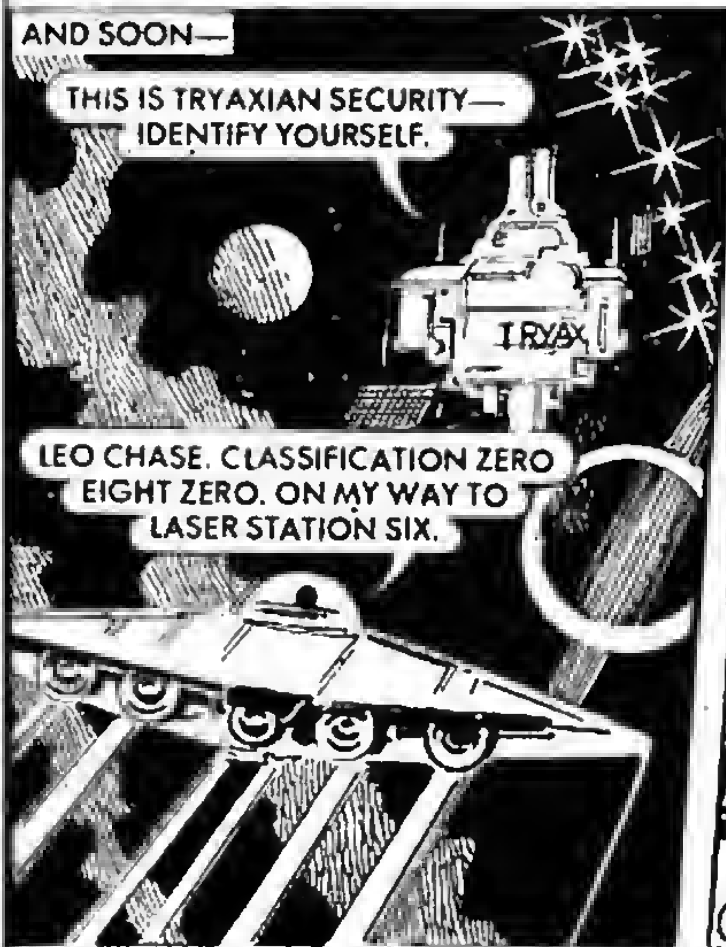
I CAN'T OUTFIGHT THEM IN THIS
DROPPING... BUT I CAN SURE OUT-RUN THEM!



AND SOON—

THIS IS TRYAXIAN SECURITY—
IDENTIFY YOURSELF.

LEO CHASE. CLASSIFICATION ZERO
EIGHT ZERO. ON MY WAY TO
LASER STATION SIX.



AT THE STATION—

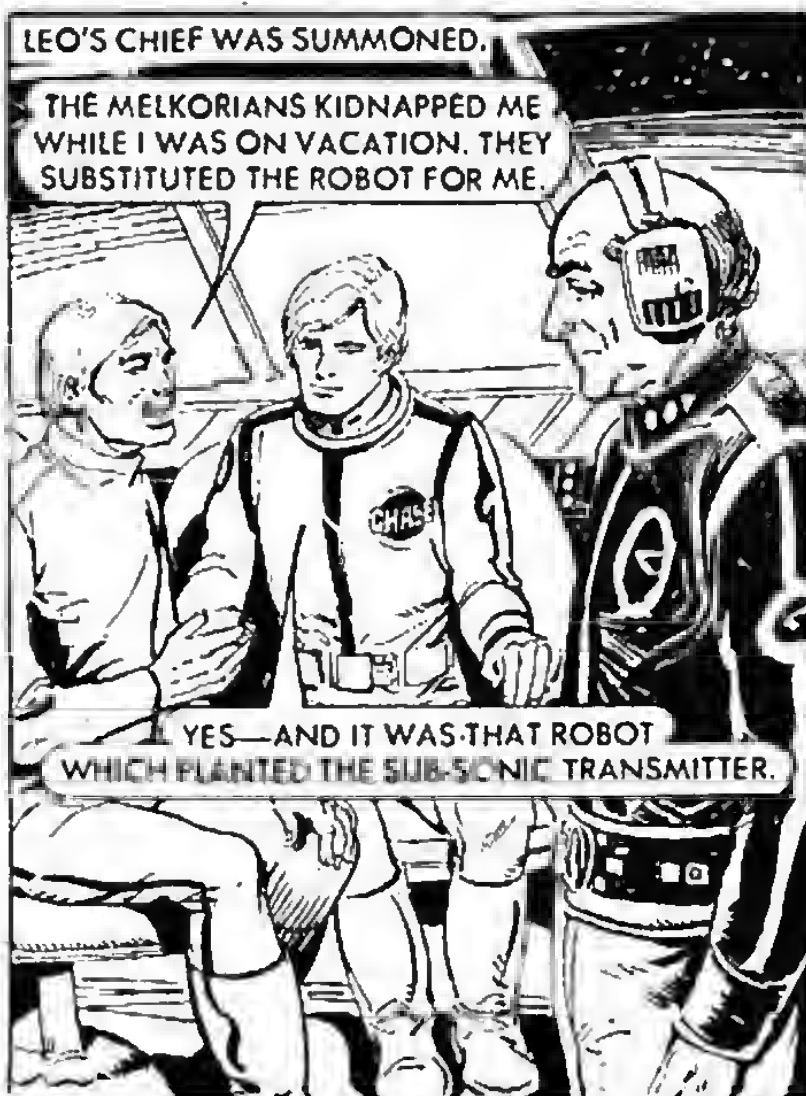
LASER



MUST BE PRETTY HOT UNDER THAT
REFRACTOR ROBE. BUT IT WON'T BE LONG NOW.

PAUSING ONLY TO ADMINISTER CHAMELEON GAS—AND RETURN TO HIS NORMAL FEATURES—LEO HURRIED INSIDE.

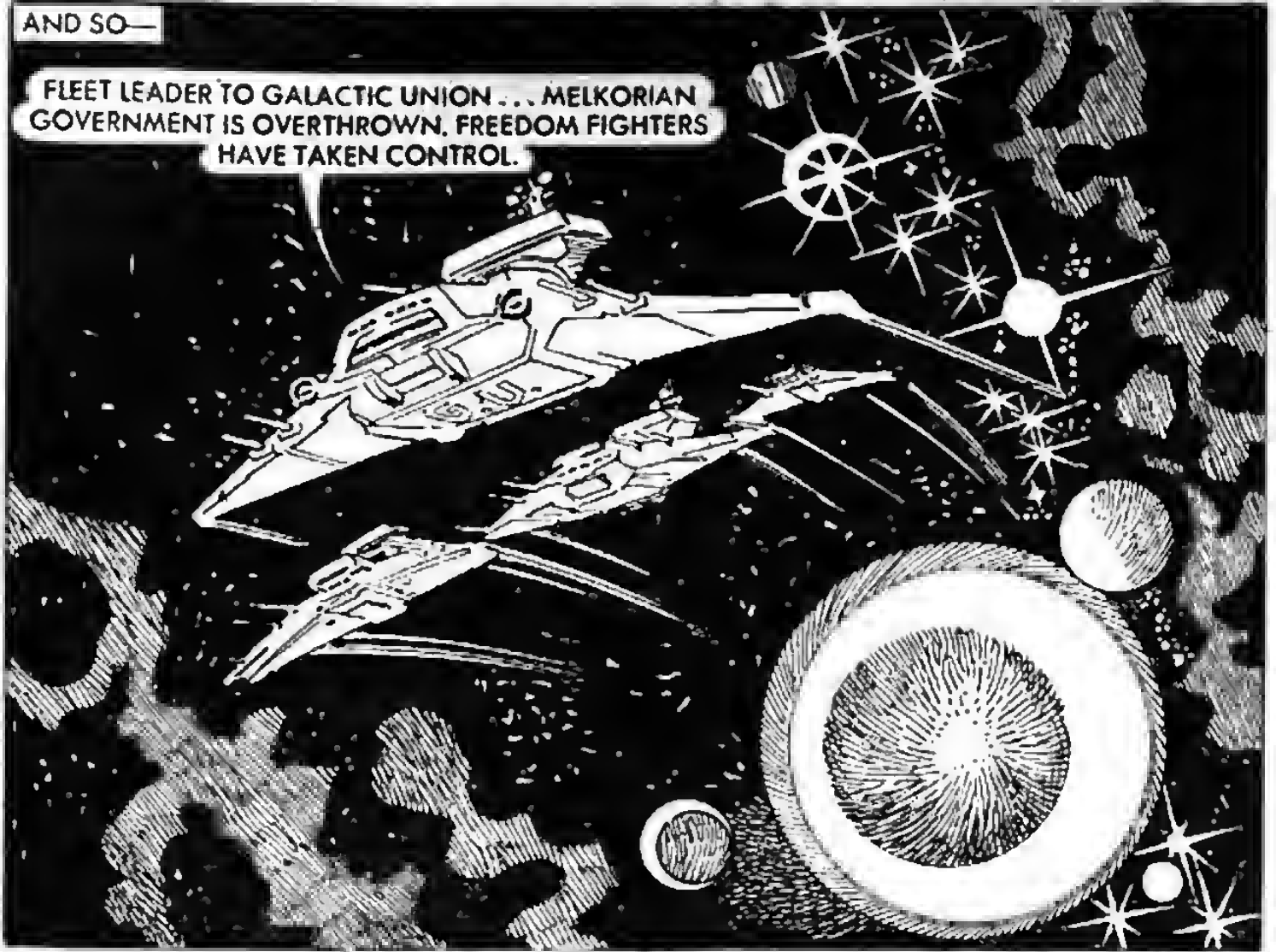






AND SO—

FLEET LEADER TO GALACTIC UNION... MELKORIAN
GOVERNMENT IS OVERTHROWN. FREEDOM FIGHTERS
HAVE TAKEN CONTROL.



THE ARMED FORCES WILL BE DISBANDED AND ALL THE
PLANET'S EFFORTS WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARDS
EVOLVING WAYS OF REPLACING ITS DWINDLING
RESOURCES.



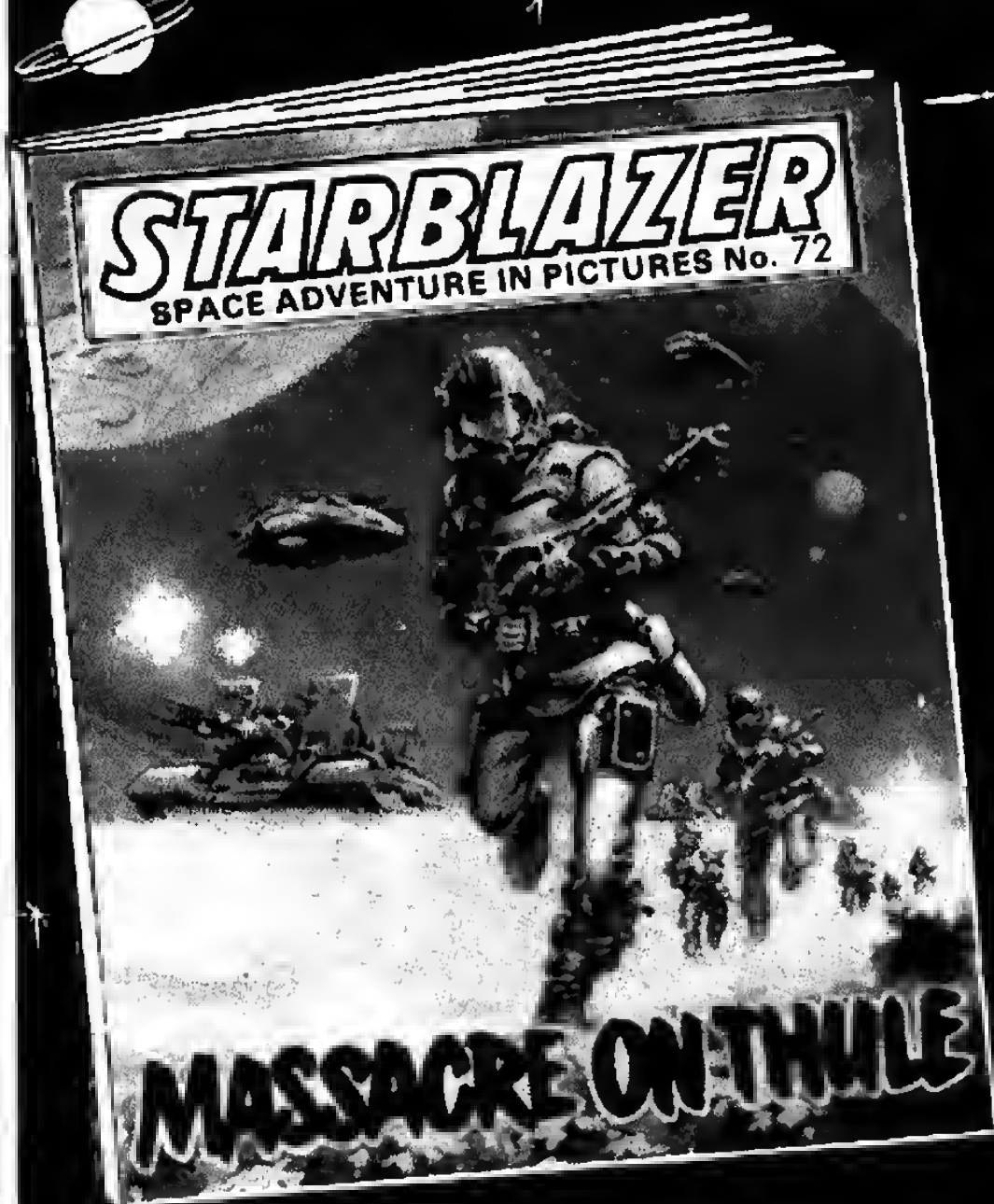
THE TRYAXIANS WERE AGAIN ABLE TO PLY THE SPACEWAYS IN PEACE, AS THEY ALWAYS HAD ...



... WITH THE MELKORIANS AS PARTNERS.

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**DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S
OTHER ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE**



**ON SALE
AT YOUR
NEWS-
AGENT'S**

NOW!

STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

SATURN URANUS NEPTUNE PLUTO

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SATURN is the most spectacular and beautiful of the planets with its array of rings, which can be seen with the aid of a moderate telescope. **URANUS**, almost two billion miles from the Sun, takes eighty four years to orbit it. **NEPTUNE** has two known satellites but both planet and satellites are invisible without optical aid. So little is known about **PLUTO** that it is hoped Voyager II's fly past, starting with Uranus, in late 1986 will aid understanding of these mysterious planets.